

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF APPEALS

In re Patent Application of:

ROBERT M. HERRIN

Serial No. **10/721,962**

Filing Date: **11/25/2003**

For: **TRAY FORMING APPARATUS**

Examiner: **Christopher R. Harmon**

Art Unit: **3721**

Attorney Docket No. **7703.26**

APPELLANT'S APPEAL BRIEF

MS Appeal Brief-Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith are Appellant's Appeal Brief, Petition for a One Month Time Extension, together with the requisite fees for filing a brief and petition. If any additional fee is required, authorization is given to charge Deposit Account No. **01-0484**.

In re Patent Application of:

ROBERT M. HERRIN

Serial No. 10/721,962

Filing Date: 11/25/2003

/

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Real Party in Interest	Pg. 3
2. Related Appeals and Interferences	Pg. 4
3. Status of the Claims	Pg. 5
4. Status of the Amendments	Pg. 6
5. Summary of the Claimed Subject Matter	Pg. 7-9
6. Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal	Pg. 10
7. Argument	Pg. 11-25
<i>A) Rejections under 35 USC §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 3,978,774 to Royal</i>	
1. Royal Does Not Teach Claimed Invention	Pg. 11-15
a. Royal Disclosure Summary	Pg. 11-14
b. Royal deficient by not disclosing Applicant's features as claimed	Pg. 14-15
2. Independent Claims 1, 8, 48 and 51 On Appeal	Pg. 16-17
a. Claims Include First and Second Folding Arms	Pg. 16
b. Claims Include opposing fixed plate and compression plate forming passage thought which second folding arm moves	Pg. 16-17
c. Apparent Misunderstanding of Elements in Claimed Invention	Pg. 18-19
3. Dependent Claims 6, 11, 14 and 49 On Appeal	Pg. 19-21
<i>B) Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Royal in view of Official Notice</i>	
1. Dependent Claims 7 and 34 over Royal in view of Official Notice by Examiner for establishing AAPA	Pg. 21
2. Dependent Claims 9 and 53 over Royal in view of Official Notice by Examiner for establishing AAPA	Pg. 21-22
3. Dependent Claim 57 over Royal in view of Official Notice by the Examiner	Pg. 22-23
<i>C) Rejection of Claims 6-7 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph</i>	
<i>D) Conclusion</i>	
8. Appendix A – Claims on Appeal	Pg. 26-33
9. Appendix B – Evidence	Pg. 34
10. Appendix C- Related Proceedings	Pg. 35

In re Patent Application of:
ROBERT M. HERRIN
Serial No. 10/721,962
Filing Date: 11/25/2003

/

(1) Real Party in Interest

The real party in interest is Robert M. Herrin, named inventor, Applicant and Appellant for the present application for patent.

In re Patent Application of:

ROBERT M. HERRIN

Serial No. 10/721,962

Filing Date: 11/25/2003

/

(2) Related Appeals and Interferences

At present, there are no related appeals, interferences, or judicial proceedings.

In re Patent Application of:
ROBERT M. HERRIN
Serial No. 10/721,962
Filing Date: 11/25/2003

(3) Status of the Claims

Claims 1-19 and 48-58 stand rejected and are pending in the application. Claims 20-45 have been withdrawn. Claims 46-47 were withdrawn by the Examiner.

In re Patent Application of:

ROBERT M. HERRIN

Serial No. 10/721,962

Filing Date: 11/25/2003

(4) Status of the Amendments

All amendments have been entered and there are no further pending amendments. A copy of the claims involved in this appeal is attached hereto as Appendix A.

In re Patent Application of:

ROBERT M. HERRIN

Serial No. 10/721,962

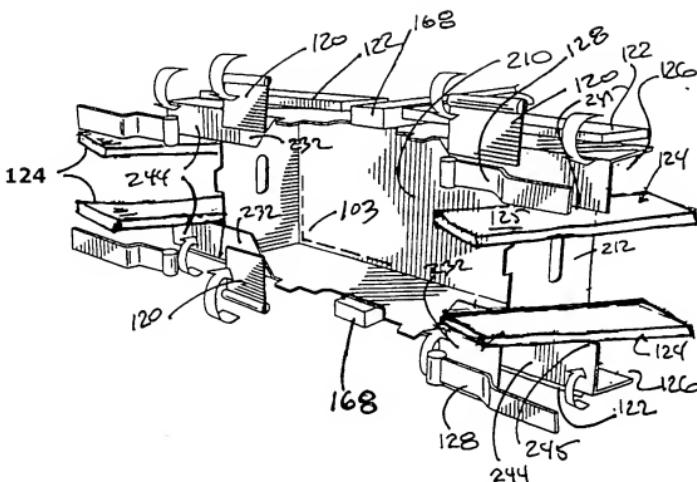
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(5) Summary of the Claimed Subject Matter

i) Independent Claims

As supported by the specification (Par 28-29) and with reference to FIGS. 1-4, independent Claims 1, 8, 48 and 51 are directed to an apparatus (100) for folding a paperboard blank (200) into a fully formed tray (202), and comprises a platen 102) for moving the blank (200) through a forming rail (114) for folding portions the blank (200) into a partially formed tray (206). A first folding arm (120) is positioned for biasing against an extended portion (208) of the partially formed tray (120) for a continued folding (see FIG. 4). A fixed plate (124) and a compression plate (122) are in a spaced relation (see FIG. 10) to form a passage (126) between them. A second folding arm (128) is movable through the passage (126) and positioned for biasing against an extended portion (244) of the partially formed tray (see FIG. 10) for folding the extended portion (244) through the passage (126). The fixed plate (124) guides the extended portion (244, 245) along a surface (125) of the fixed plate (124) onto a tray wall (212, 218) for providing the fully formed tray (202). There are no means plus function or step plus function elements in the claims under appeal.



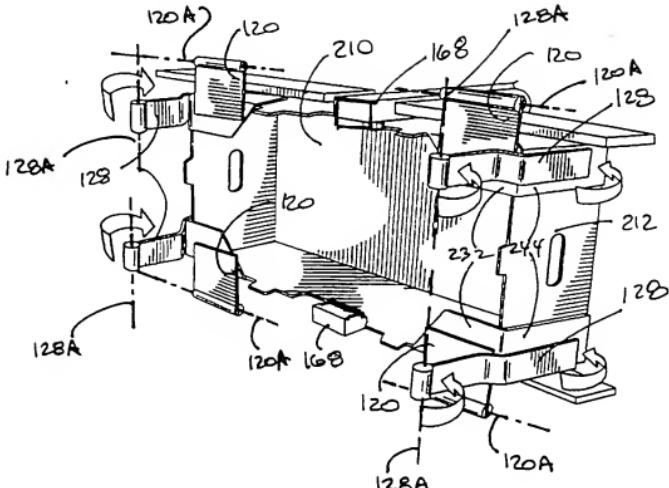


FIG. 12 of Present Application

FIG. 12 illustrates the relationship between the first folding arm (120) and the second folding arm (128) with their axes of rotation (120A, 128A) generally perpendicular to each other.

Claim 6 depends from Claim 1 and recites that the platen (102) is further limited by having a fixed peripheral portion (102, 156, 103) (see FIGS. 3, 9 and 10 respectively) dimensioned for folding a bottom panel (210) of the blank (200) into a preselected fixed shape.

Claim 11 depends from Claim 1 and recites a locking arm (168) operable with the forming rail (114) for securing the partially formed tray (206) in a second position (see FIGS. 4 and 10).

In re Patent Application of:

ROBERT M. HERRIN

Serial No. 10/721,962

Filing Date: 11/25/2003

/

(6) Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed On Appeal

- A) Whether Claims 1-6, 8, 10-19, 48-52 and 55-56 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 3,978,774 to Royal.
- B) Whether Claims 7,9, 53 and 54 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Royal in view of Official Notice taken by Examiner for establishing AAPA.
- C) Whether Claim 57 is unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Royal in view of Official Notice taken by the Examiner.
- D) Whether Claims 6-7 are indefinite under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

In re Patent Application of:

ROBERT M. HERRIN

Serial No. 10/721,962

Filing Date: 11/25/2003

/

(7) Argument

As will be described in greater detail below, Appellant respectfully submits the Examiner's rejections over Royal are improper. Moreover, Appellant respectfully requests the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences reverse the Examiner decision and withdraw the rejection of the claims.

The following arguments are herein presented in support of allowable claims:

A) Rejections under 35 USC §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 3,978,774 to Royal

1. Royal does not teach claimed invention

a. Royal Disclosure Summary

The Examiner rejected independent Claims 1, 8, 48, and 51 as be anticipated by US Patent No. 3,978,774 to Royal. Royal discloses a tray forming machine having a mandrel (40) having side walls (54a) and compression plates (54) moveable with respect to a base plate (52) in order to allow the mandrel (40) to be removed from a fully formed tray as a result of portions (shoulder panel 17) of the tray extending over the mandrel (40), thus preventing it from being withdrawn from the formed tray unless the mandrel (40) is reduced in size to fit within inside dimension of the tray (see Col 4, lines 41, 50 and 57). As illustrated in FIGS. 6 and 7 of Royal, the compression plates (54) and parallel plates (74) form what the Examiner considers to be a "passage" equivalent to the passage (126) of Applicant's independent claims. Royal makes no reference to a passage.

Further, the Examiner identifies (see 11/08/2007 Office Action Page 2, Par 3) the compression arms (80), illustrated in FIG. 4 of Royal to be equivalent to the first and second folding arms (120, 128) of the claimed invention which arms (120, 128) include the limitation of being movable through the passage (126) for folding the extended

In re Patent Application of:

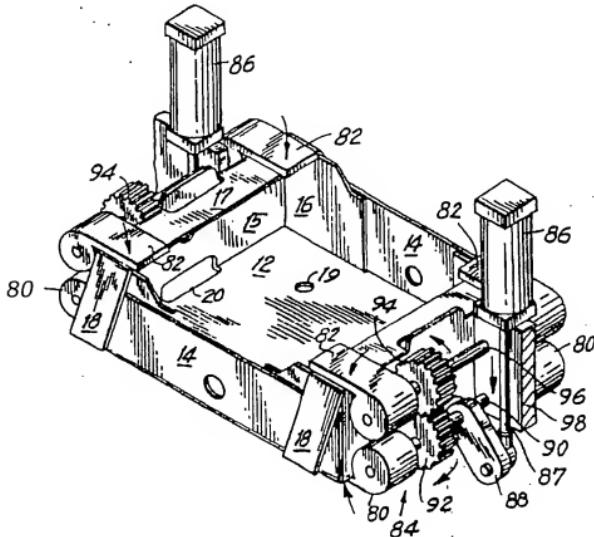
ROBERT M. HERRIN

Serial No. 10/721,962

Filing Date: 11/25/2003

portion (244) of the partially formed blank (206) into the passage (120), where as above described has the fixed plate (124) positioned for guiding the extended portion (244, 245) along its surface (125).

Reference to portions of Royal may be helpful to the Board in better understanding the cited reference and its distinction over the claimed invention.



to hold each shoulder panel in a substantially horizontal plane while the remainder of the box is formed. (For clarity, the mandrel has been omitted from FIG. 4). More specifically, on each side of the machine adjacent to the bottom of the box forming station, there are provided a pair of bottom compressor arms 80 and a pair of top compressor arms 82. Each pair of compressor arms are mounted on a common shaft and the two shafts are geared together as shown at 84 in order to secure automatic, opposite rotation of the arms 80, 82. As best seen in FIGS. 4 and 7, a top-to-bottom compressor arm actuating cylinder 86 is provided and includes a downwardly extending piston 87 which is pinned to a crank arm 88. The other end of the crank arm is fixedly secured to the shaft 90. The lower compressor arms 80 and a spur gear 92 are also fixedly secured to shaft 90. The spur gear 92 engages a corresponding spur gear 94 which is fixedly secured to the shaft 96 as are the top compressor arms 82. The shafts 90, 96 are journaled in mounting blocks 98. Thus, it will be seen that when the cylinder 86 is actuated, the piston 87 will move downwardly causing a clockwise rotation of the gear 92 and the bottom folding arms 80. Additionally, a clockwise rotation of gear 92 will cause counter clockwise rotation of the gear 94 thereby causing the top compressor arms 82 to rotate downwardly. In this manner, the top compressor arms 82 perpendicularly fold the shoulder panels 17 with respect to the side panels 15 while the box is gripped along the bottom panel by the lower compressor arms 80.

As described in Col 5, Line 61 of Royal, when a sufficient period of time has elapsed to insure setting of the adhesive, the cylinders 93 are reverse actuated, the cylinders 59 attached to the mandrel base plate are reverse actuated thus contracting the mandrel to its minimum size so that it may pass between the horizontally disposed shoulder panels 17. Thereupon, the cylinder 49 is reverse actuated so as to retract the mandrel. After the mandrel has been retracted, i.e., at least after the mandrel moves upwardly out of

In re Patent Application of:
ROBERT M. HERRIN
Serial No. 10/721,962
Filing Date: 11/25/2003

the formed box, the cylinders 86 shown in FIG. 4 are reverse actuated thus opening the top-to-bottom compressor arms.

b. Royal deficient by not disclosing Applicant's features as claimed

Royal is presumed by the Examiner to disclose features of the claimed invention. However, it is only after the Examiner modifies Royal to support his arguments of anticipation. Clearly, it is only through the teachings of the Applicant that the Examiner has guidance for his modifications.

As held in *Paperless Accounting, Inc. v. Bay Area Rapid Transit Systems*, 804 F.2d 659, 665, 231 USPQ 649, 653 (Fed. Cir. 1986): "[A] §102(b) reference must sufficiently describe the claimed invention to have placed the public in possession of it... [E]ven if the claimed invention is disclosed in a printed publication, that disclosure will not be sufficient as prior art if it was not enabling..." See also, *Akzo N.V. v. U.S.I.T.C.*, 808 F.2d 1471, 1479, 1 USPQ2d 1241, 1245 (Fed. Cir. 1986) ("the prior art reference must be enabling")

Without extensive experimentation, extensive trial, and frustrating error, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not arrive at the necessary modifications needed to have elements of Royal operate together, as suggested by the Examiner to produce the claimed invention. Indeed, Royal directs his invention to requiring movable side plates to the mandrel in order to fold the tray as desired and allow the mandrel to be reduced in size in order to remove it from the formed tray. Clearly, Royal teaches away from the dimensionally fixed platen of the claimed invention.

Yet further, Royal directs its teachings to a machine that forms a tray having horizontally disposed shoulders (17). The mandrel (48) is disposed within the formed tray (see Col 5, Lines 39-41). The mandrel (48) must then be minimized in size to be retracted and pass between the shoulders (17) (see Col. 5, Lines 61-67). The claimed

In re Patent Application of:
ROBERT M. HERRIN
Serial No. 10/721,962
Filing Date: 11/25/2003

/

invention calls for a platen moving between a first position proximate the blank and a second position downstream therefrom to the second position, the platen being biased against the blank for a driving of the blank downstream to the second position. In addition, the claimed invention calls for a second folding arm movable through the passage and positioned for biasing against the extended portion of the partially formed tray and for folding the extended portion through the passage, wherein the fixed plate is positioned for guiding the extended portion along the surface of the fixed plate onto a tray wall for providing a fully formed tray. Royal teaches the mandrel stopped and top-to-bottom compression arms (80, 82) are actuated in order to fold each shoulder panel (17) to a position which is substantially perpendicular to its associated side panel and in order to hold each shoulder panel is a substantially horizontal plane while the remainder of the box is formed. Royal further indicates that the mandrel has been removed from FIG. 4 for clarity. Clearly, the mandrel is and must be held in place, a clear teaching away from the claimed invention. (see Col 4, Lines 57-62 and Col 5, Lines 39-41)

Reading further (see Col 5, Lines 19-23), the top compressor arms (82) perpendicularly fold the shoulder panels (17) with respect to the side panels (15) while the box is gripped along the bottom panel by the lower compression arms (80). Again, a clear teaching away from the claimed invention including a second folding arm movably positioned for folding the extended portion through the passage, wherein the fixed plate is positioned for guiding the extended portion onto a tray wall for providing a fully formed tray. Modifying Royal as suggested by the Examiner results in a malfunctioning Royal. Yet further, there is no motivation for royal to make such modifications.

In re Patent Application of:
ROBERT M. HERRIN
Serial No. 10/721,962
Filing Date: 11/25/2003

/

2. Independent Claims Under Appeal

a. Claims 1, 8, 48 and 51 include first and second folding arms

Contrary to the Examiner's statement that Royal anticipates the claims (thus discloses all elements and limitations of the claimed invention) is incorrect. Royal is deficient in that it does not describe the interacting structure of a folding arm movable into a passage. Royal does not describe "every element as set forth in the claim" as required by 35 U.S.C. §102(b). In clear contrast to the specific language of Claim 1, the Examiner takes the position that the compression arm (82) of Royal is movable into the passage formed by the opposing compression plate (54) and parallel plate (74). One of ordinary skill in the art would clearly understand that such an interpretation is incorrect.

b. Claims 1, 8, 48 and 51 include opposing fixed plate and compression plate forming passage thought which second folding arm moves

Applicant's specification clearly defines a "passage" wherein a fixed plate (124) is carried in a spaced relation to the compression plate (122) to form a passage (126), and a second folding arm (128) is carried by the frame (112) and positioned for pivoting and biasing against the extended portion (208) of the partially formed tray (206) for folding the extended portion through the passage (126). See Par 29. Those of ordinary skill in the mechanical arts appreciate that the arms (80) of Royal do not move through the passage formed by the opposing compression and parallel plates (54, 74). Further, Royal does not intend for the arms (80) to operate in such a manner for if they did, the tray would be destroyed in its making by forcing the shoulder (17) to extend further than intended.

While the Examiner gives no credit (See 11/08/2007 Office Action, Page 5, Line 8 by way of example) to the blank (workpiece 200) with regard to distinguishing the claimed invention over the prior art, the Examiner uses the workpiece (10) of Royal to

In re Patent Application of:

ROBERT M. HERRIN

Serial No. 10/721,962

Filing Date: 11/25/2003

/

support his view regarding the teachings of Royal. (See Continuation Sheet Advisory Action 12/05/2007 where Examiner states a passage is taught by Royal through which the product travels. Additional statements made with this Continuation Sheet lead Applicant to believe that the Examiner does not recognize the distinguishing features of the claimed invention, noting that the movement of the compression plate is not the issue.

One distinguishing feature includes the movement of the second folding arm (128) into the passage (126), not over it or along side it as taught by Royal. MPEP 2111 addresses interpretation and provides the guidance that during patent examination, the pending claims must be "given their broadest reasonable interpretation consistent with the specification." As support above, the Examiner fails to interpret the specification and accompanying drawings support the claims.

Yet further, MPEP 2131 provides: "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described in a single prior art reference." See *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). "The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as contained in the ...claim." See *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.* 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1013, 1920 (Fed Cir. 1989). The elements must be arranged as required by the claim. The Examiner's statements oppose all of the above guidance.

Independent Claim 8 for a fixed plate carried in space relation to the compression plate and forming a passage therebetween. Likewise, Independent Claims 46 and 48 call for a fixed plate and a compression plate forming a passage therebetween.

In re Patent Application of:
ROBERT M. HERRIN
Serial No. 10/721,962
Filing Date: 11/25/2003

c. Apparent Misunderstanding of Elements in Claimed Invention

The Examiner states: "In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e. the specifics of the "passage") are not recited in the rejected claims." See Page 5, Lines 3-5 of 11/08/2007 Office Action, Response to Arguments Section.

Clearly, all claims call for a passage formed between a fixed plate and a compression plate. By way of example, Claim 1, Lines 21-23 call for a fixed plate carried in spaced relation to the compression plate, the fixed plate having a surface thereof generally parallel to the path of the platen, the fixed plate and the compression plate forming a passage therebetween.

The Examiner states Royal defines a passage through which the blank traverses and are folded (see page 5, lines 8-9 Office Action 11/8/2007). In contrast, the Examiner states expressions relating the apparatus to contents thereof during an intended operation are of no significance in determining patentability of the apparatus claim (see page 3, lines 5-7 Office Action 11/8/2007). Such apparent inconsistency causes Applicant to be concerned the Examiner does not fully understand the claimed invention. Specifically, the claimed invention calls for a second folding arm movable through the passage, while the Examiner cites Royal for teaching a workpiece in a passage.

While the Examiner interprets Royal as having a workpiece within a passage, Royal does not teach an arm (a clearly defined and claimed element of the invention) movable through a passage (a clearly defined limitation wherein the passage is formed by a fixed plate and a compression plate).

Independent Claim 8 calls for the second folding arm movably positioned for folding an extending portion of the blank (workpiece) through the passage.

In re Patent Application of:
ROBERT M. HERRIN
Serial No. 10/721,962
Filing Date: 11/25/2003

/

Independent Claim 48 includes the limitation of the second folding arm movable through the passage.

Respectfully, the Board is reminded that the Federal Circuit has repeatedly warned against using Applicant's disclosure as a blueprint to reconstruct the claimed invention out of isolated teachings in the prior art. See, e.g., *Grain Processing Corp. v. American Maize-Products*. 840 F.2d 902, 9076, 5 USPQ2d 1788, 1792 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Clearly, interpreting the arm or Royal as moving through a passage, there being no "passage" disclosed in Royal, can only be appreciated when guided by the Applicant's disclosure. No known prior art reference teaches opposing plates forming a passage through which an arm moves to satisfy a need as identified by the Applicant.

3. Dependent Claims on appeal

a. Dependent Claim 6

Dependent Claim 6, depending from independent Claim 1, calls for the platen (102) comprising a fixed peripheral portion (103) dimensioned for folding a bottom panel of the blank (200) into a preselected fixed shape. The Examiner cites Royal for having a platen (48) which is clearly described by Royal (see Col 3, Line 31) as being an expandable and contractable mandrel (48). Without explanation, one might presume the Examiner takes the position that at one instant in time the mandrel does have a fixed periphery. If such is the case, the Examiner's interpretation of the mandrel (48) fails to meet the limitations of Royal and is such an interpretation is a clear teaching away from Royal.

b. Dependent Claim 11

Dependent Claim 11 depending from independent Claim 1, calls for a locking arm (1680 operable with the folding rail (114) for securing the partially formed tray in a second position. The Examiner cites crank arm (88) of Royal (see FIG. 4) as being

In re Patent Application of:

ROBERT M. HERRIN

Serial No. 10/721,962

Filing Date: 11/25/2003

equivalent to the Applicant's locking arm (167). However, the crank arm (88) acts to operate the compressor arms (80, 82) to hold the tray in place. The locking arm (168) of the claimed invention is a distinct and is an additional element to the folding arms (120, 128). It appears the Examiner is impermissibly using the Royal element (80) to argue that Royal anticipates the claimed invention calling for folding arms (120, 124) and a locking arm (168). Royal is deficient in that it does not describe first and second folding arms interacting with a locking arm as called for in Claim 11.

c. Dependent Claim 14

Dependent Claim 14, depending from independent Claim 1, calls for a magazine styled frame (172) carried downstream the second position (108) of the platen (102) and having an aperture for closely receiving a fully formed tray (202) prior to releasing the fully formed tray (202) from the apparatus (100). The Examiner relies on Royal (FIG. 9) for such a teaching. However, Royal clearly discloses a series of rollers disposed such that a formed box falling out of the box forming station will fall upon the rollers to be discharged from the machine (see Col 6, Lines 27-32).

d. Dependent Claim 49

Dependent Claim 49, depending from independent Claim 48, calls for the first folding arm (120) being movable between a position allowing the platen to move past the first folding arm (120) to a position within the path and generally perpendicular to the path of the platen (102). The Examiner states Royal fails to disclose folding arms (120, 128) capable of rotation about first and second axes (120A, 128A) of rotation (perpendicularly arranged as illustrated in FIG. 12 above), however the Examiner takes OFFICIAL NOTICE that there are well known mechanical joints (i.e. universal joint) for enabling rotational movement of elements along at least two axes. See Office Action 11/8/2007 Page 4, Par 6. The Examiner goes on to state it would be obvious to provide such a mechanical connection to Royal for rotating the folding arms out of the folding

In re Patent Application of:
ROBERT M. HERRIN
Serial No. 10/721,962
Filing Date: 11/25/2003

passage along a second axis (perpendicular to the first) in order to prevent interference with the advancement of the next product.

Royal teaches arms (80, 82) already out of the "folding passage" and teaches the mandrel (48) to be expandable. The structure of the claims invention is clearly not disclosed by Royal and certainly not suggested. There is no motivation for Royal to rotate the arms (80, 82) as suggested by the Examiner.

B) Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Royal in view of Official Notice

1) Dependent Claims 7 and 54 over Royal in view of Official Notice by Examiner for establishing AAPA

Dependent Claims 7 and 54 call for a rectangular peripheral portion of the platen (102) including bevelled corners (156) cooperating with the guide plate (158) for folding an inside corner support member (224) of the formed tray (202), see FIGS. 9 and 19, by way of example. As indicated in the 02/02/2005 Office Action, Page 3, Par. 3, the Examiner (different from current) rejects Claim 7 as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,9712,906 to Tharpe Jr. et al. in view of Official Notice. The Response to the 02/02/2005 Office Action traversed the rejections over Tharpe, which rejections were withdrawn. The current Examiner now rejects Claims 7 and 54 over Royal in view of AAPA (established by the previous Examiner), arguing that Applicant was untimely in traversing the rejection. The Board is now asked to retract the rejections based on the impermissible Office Action and Examiner established AAPA.

2) Dependent Claims 9 and 53 over Royal in view of Official Notice by Examiner for establishing AAPA

Dependent Claims 9 and 53 call for a compression surface (160) of a guide plate (158) comprising depressions for reducing a frictional contacting surface of the guide plate

In re Patent Application of:
ROBERT M. HERRIN
Serial No. 10/721,962
Filing Date: 11/25/2003

with the fully formed tray. As presented above, the 02/02/2005 Office Action, Page 3, Par. 3, the Examiner (different from current) rejects Claim 9 as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,9712,906 to Tharpe Jr. et al. in view of Official Notice. The Response to the 02/02/2005 Office Action traversed the rejections over Tharpe, which rejections were withdrawn. The current Examiner now rejects Claims 9 and 53 over Royal in view of AAPA (established by the previous Examiner), arguing that Applicant was untimely in traversing the rejection. The Board is now asked to retract the rejections based on the impermissible Office Action and Examiner established AAPA.

3) Dependent Claim 57 over Royal in view of Official Notice by the Examiner

Claim 57, depending from Claim 1, calls for each of the first and second folding arms rotatable about first and second axes of rotation, respectively, have the first axis of rotation generally perpendicular to the second axis of rotation. See Appellant's FIG. 12, by way of example.

The Examiner rejected Claim 57 depending from Claim 1 under 35 USC 103(a) based on the teachings of Royal and Official Notice regarding the arrangement of the first and second folding arms and their axes of rotation being perpendicular to each other arguing that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide such a mechanical connection in the invention of Royal in order to prevent interference with the advancement of the next product (See 11/08/2007 Office Action Page 4, Par 6). The Examiner has not only modified the apparatus of Royal such that it would not operate but has added reasons for making the modification that are not consistent with the teachings of the claimed invention and are inconsistent with the teachings of Royal. It would therefore appear that the claimed invention is not clear to the Examiner, nor has the problems addressed by the Appellant appear to be understood.

In re Patent Application of:
ROBERT M. HERRIN
Serial No. 10/721,962
Filing Date: 11/25/2003

By way of example, "The advancement of the next product" is not the issue, nor does it provide the motivation for the arrangement of the axes of rotation of the first and second folding arms. In addition, by modifying Royal as suggested, Royal would not be able to operate as disclosed and would fail to meet the needs identified by Royal. Further, the issue is not a universal joint, but the relationship between the first folding arm and the second folding arm as presented in the claimed invention.

C) Rejection of Claims 6-7 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Dependent Claim 6, depending from independent Claim 1, calls for the platen (102) comprising a fixed peripheral portion (103) dimensioned for folding a bottom panel (210) of the blank (200) into a preselected fixed shape. With reference to FIG. 10, by way of example, the fixed peripheral portion (103) of the platen (102) causes the folding of the blank (200) along fold lines (216 and 220 identified in FIG. 8) as the platen moves from the first position (106) to the second position (108) as illustrated in FIGS. 3 and 4.

D) Conclusion

As is well known by the Board, modern decisions regarding "anticipation" require that each and every element and limitation of the claimed invention be disclosed in the single prior art reference. For anticipation, there must be no difference between the claimed invention and the reference disclosure. Royal does not disclose nor suggest the same combination of elements and limitations as claimed by Appellant. Royal is motivated to perform a different function and as such is not motivated to modify its teachings to solve the problem being addressed by the claimed invention. Royal does not suggest its structural elements be interpreted or modified as proposed by the Examiner. Further, the combinations presented by the Examiner would not work and work to make Royal inoperable.

In re Patent Application of:
ROBERT M. HERRIN
Serial No. 10/721,962
Filing Date: 11/25/2003

As discussed above, MPEP 2111 provides the guidance that during patent examination, the pending claims must be "given their broadest reasonable interpretation consistent with the specification." As supported above, the Examiner fails to interpret the specification and accompanying drawings provided in support of the claims. Further, MPEP 2131 provides that a claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described in a single prior art reference. Yet further, the identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as contained in the claim. The elements must be arranged as required by the claim. Such is not the case and such is clearly being misunderstood by the Examiner based on his statements.

With regard to the rejections made based on obviousness, consider KSR International Co. v. Teleflex, Inc. (KSR). Modification of Royal makes Royal unsatisfactory for its intended use. Royal solved a problem of removing a mandrel or platen by having the mandrel resizable in order to be removed without being snagged by the top shoulder of et tray. The claimed invention has the platen removed before the top shoulder of the tray is formed. To do so required a distinctive arrangement of folding arms not suggested by Royal. Further, the claimed invention is not simply a combination claim to known elements that simply perform the same functions as in the prior art as case law would guide us to consider. In fact, the claimed invention provides distinct elements and limitations, as above described. The Federal Circuit's standard holds that a combination of prior art can be obvious only if there is some motivation, suggestion, or teaching to combine the prior art. There is no motivation, suggestion or teaching by Royal.

Further, there is no intrinsic or extrinsic justification for the modifications being made by the Examiner in either his rejections under §102 or under §103. As such, there is no *prima facie* case made for obviousness as assumed by the Examiner. It is

In re Patent Application of:
ROBERT M. HERRIN
Serial No. 10/721,962
Filing Date: 11/25/2003

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clear that Royal does not suggest or anticipate the benefits of the modifications being suggested by the Examiner. It should be appreciated that the mere fact a reference can be modified does not make the resultant obvious unless the prior art suggests the modification. See *In re Mills*, 916 F.2d 680, 16 USPQ2d 1430 (Fed. Cir. 1990). Regardless of the view of the Board, every reasonable interpretation supports patentability of the claims pending the in Appellant's application.

It is therefore submitted that all of the claims are patentable over the prior art. Applicant respectfully requests allowance of Claims 1-6, 8, 10-19, 48-52 and 55-56 rejected under 35 USC §102(b), and 7, 9, 53, 54, 57 and 58 rejected under 35 USC §103(a). Accordingly, the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences is respectfully requested to reverse the earlier unfavorable decision made by the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,



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In re Patent Application of:

ROBERT M. HERRIN

Serial No. 10/721,962

Filing Date: 11/25/2003

APPENDIX A - CLAIMS ON APPEAL
FOR U.S. PATENT APPLICATION SERIAL NO. 10/721,962

1. An apparatus comprising:

a platen operable for moving between a first position proximate and in spaced relation to a blank and a second position downstream therefrom, the platen being biased against the blank for a driving of the blank downstream to the second position, the platen having a guide plate operable at a peripheral portion thereof for providing a compression surface;

a forming rail positioned downstream the first position for receiving the blank moving against the forming rail for folding portions the blank, wherein a proximal portion of the forming rail partially folds peripheral portions of the blank and a distal portion of the forming rail secures the blank into a partially formed tray, wherein side walls of the partially formed tray are fully formed, the distal portion having a side folding rail portion opposing the guide plate for receiving the blank peripheral portions therebetween;

a first folding arm movably positioned for biasing against an extended portion of the partially formed tray for a continued folding thereof, the first folding arm positioned proximate the distal portion of the forming rail and downstream the proximal portion thereof, wherein the first folding arm is movable between a first position wherein the

In re Patent Application of:

ROBERT M. HERRIN

Serial No. 10/721,962

Filing Date: 11/25/2003

platen can move along a path, the first folding arm movable to a second position wherein the first folding arm is within the path and generally perpendicular thereto; a compression plate movably carried in spaced relation to the partially formed tray;

a fixed plate carried in spaced relation to the compression plate, the fixed plate having a surface thereof generally parallel to the path of the platen, the fixed plate and the compression plate forming a passage therebetween; and

a second folding arm movable through the passage and positioned for biasing against the extended portion of the partially formed tray and for folding the extended portion through the passage, wherein the fixed plate is positioned for guiding the extended portion along the surface of the fixed plate onto a tray wall for providing a fully formed tray.

6. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the platen comprises a fixed peripheral portion dimensioned for folding a bottom panel of the blank into a preselected fixed shape.

7. An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the rectangular peripheral portion of the platen includes bevelled corners cooperating with the guide plate proximate thereto for folding an inside corner support member of the formed tray.

8. An apparatus comprising:

a platen operable for moving between a first position proximate and in spaced relation to the blank and a second position downstream therefrom to the second position, the platen being biased against the blank for a driving of the blank downstream to the second position;

a guide plate carried by the platen further defining a platen periphery and for providing a compression surface;

a forming rail positioned downstream the first position for receiving the blank moving against the forming rail for folding portions of the blank, wherein a proximal portion of the forming rail partially folds peripheral portions of the blank and a distal portion of the forming rail secures the blank into a partially formed tray;

a first folding arm movably positioned for biasing against an extended portion of the partially formed tray for a continued folding thereof, the first folding arm positioned proximate the distal portion of the forming rail and downstream the proximal portion thereof;

a compression plate movably carried in spaced relation to the partially formed tray;

a fixed plate carried in spaced relation to the compression plate and forming a passage therebetween;

In re Patent Application of:

ROBERT M. HERRIN

Serial No. 10/721,962

Filing Date: 11/25/2003

/

a second folding arm movably positioned for biasing against the extended portion of the partially formed tray and for folding the extended portion through the passage, wherein the fixed plate is positioned for guiding the extended portion onto a tray wall for providing a fully formed tray.

9. An apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the compression surface comprises depressions for reducing a frictional contacting surface thereof.

11. An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a locking arm operable with the folding rail for securing the partially formed tray in the second position.

14. An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a magazine styled frame carried downstream the second position, the magazine styled frame having an aperture for closely receiving a fully formed tray prior to releasing the fully formed tray from the apparatus.

48. An apparatus comprising:
a platen operable for moving along a path between a first position proximate and in spaced relation to a blank and a second position downstream therefrom, the platen being biased against the blank for a driving of the blank downstream to the second

position, the platen having a compression surface thereon generally parallel to the path the platen:

 a forming rail positioned downstream the first position for receiving the blank moving against the forming rail for folding portions of the blank, wherein a proximal portion of the forming rail partially folds peripheral portions of the blank and a distal portion of the forming rail secures the blank into a partially formed tray biased against the compression surface;

 a first folding arm movably positioned for biasing against an extended portion of the partially formed tray for a continued folding thereof, the first folding arm positioned proximate the distal portion of the forming rail and downstream the proximal portion thereof;

 a fixed plate carried proximate the first folding arm;

 a compression plate carried in spaced relation to and movable toward the fixed plate, wherein a passage is formed therebetween; and

 a second folding arm movable through the passage and positioned for biasing against the extended portion of the partially formed tray and for folding the extended portion through the passage, wherein the fixed plate is positioned for guiding the extended portion onto a tray wall for providing a fully formed tray.

49. An apparatus according to claim 48, wherein the first folding arm is movable between a position allowing the platen to move thereby along a path of the platen to a position within the path and generally perpendicular thereto.

51. An apparatus comprising:

 a conveyor dimension for conveying a blank to a first position;

 applicator positioned proximate the conveyor for applying an adhesive to a selected portion of the blank;

 a platen operable downstream the applicator for moving between the first position proximate and in spaced relation to the blank and a second position downstream therefrom, the platen being biased against the blank for driving the blank downstream to the second position;

 a forming rail positioned downstream the first position for receiving the blank moving against the forming rail for folding portions of the blank, wherein a proximal portion of the forming rail partially folds peripheral portions of the blank and a distal portion of the forming rail secures the blank into a partially formed tray;

 a first folding arm movably positioned for biasing against an extended portion of the partially formed tray for a continued folding thereof, the first folding arm positioned proximate the distal portion of the forming rail and downstream the proximal portion thereof, wherein the first folding arm is movable between a first position wherein the

In re Patent Application of:
ROBERT M. HERRIN
Serial No. 10/721,962
Filing Date: 11/25/2003

platen can move along a path, the first folding arm movable to a second position wherein the first folding arm is within the path and generally perpendicular thereto; a compression plate movably carried in spaced relation to the partially formed tray;

a fixed plate carried in spaced relation to the compression plate, the fixed plate having a surface thereof generally parallel to the path of the platen, the fixed plate and the compression plate forming a passage therebetween; and

a second folding arm movable through the passage and positioned for biasing against the extended portion of the partially formed tray and for folding the extended portion through the passage, wherein the fixed plate is positioned for guiding the extended portion along the surface of the fixed plate onto a tray wall for providing a fully formed tray.

53. An apparatus according to claim 52, wherein the compression surface comprises depressions for reducing a frictional contacting surface thereof.

54. An apparatus according to claim 52, wherein the rectangular shape includes bevelled corners thus providing an eight sided platen, wherein the bevelled corners cooperate with the guide plate proximate thereto for folding an inside corner support member of the formed tray.

In re Patent Application of:

ROBERT M. HERRIN

Serial No. 10/721,962

Filing Date: 11/25/2003

/

57. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each of the first and second folding arms is rotatable about first and second axes of rotation, respectively, and wherein the first axis of rotation is generally perpendicular to the second axis of rotation.

In re Patent Application of:
ROBERT M. HERRIN
Serial No. 10/721,962
Filing Date: 11/25/2003

APPENDIX B – EVIDENCE APPENDIX

PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(ix)

None.

In re Patent Application of:

ROBERT M. HERRIN

Serial No. 10/721,962

Filing Date: 11/25/2003

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APPENDIX C – RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(x)

None.